

Case I Claims

1. A mammalian lung surfactant composition consisting essentially of dipalmitoyl phosphatidylcholine in admixture with a fatty alcohol.

5 2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the fatty alcohol has from about 14 to 18 carbon atoms.

10 3. The composition of claim 2 wherein the fatty alcohol is hexadecanol.

4. The composition of claim 2 wherein the fatty alcohol is oleic alcohol.

15 5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the dipalmitoyl phosphatidyl choline constitutes a major percentage by weight of the composition and wherein the fatty alcohol constitutes a minor percentage.

20 6. The composition of claim 5 wherein the fatty alcohol is present in the range of about 6 to 18% by weight and the dipalmitoyl phosphatidyl choline is present in the range of about 82 to 94% by weight.

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7. A composition for administration into mammalian alveolar spaces comprising a suspension of dipalmitoyl phosphatidyl choline and hexadecanol in saline solution.

5 8. A method for treating respiratory distress syndrome in mammals wherein natural lung surfactant normally produced by the mammal is absent or deficient, comprising introducing into the alveolar spaces a quantity of a composition
10 consisting essentially of a major amount of 1,2 dipalmitoyl-sn-3-glycerophosphoryl choline in admixture with a minor amount of a fatty alcohol.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the
15 fatty alcohol is n-hexadecan-1-ol.

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